

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 OC-06 CCO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

EUR-25 NEA-10 /166 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:HRMELONE:BJR

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DOD/ISA:MR. BADER

PM/ISO:MR. HAGGERTY(SUBST)

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R 060024Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199402

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, ET, US

SUBJ: PRESS GUIDANCE ON KAGNEW PHASE-DOWN

REF: STATE 191789

1. DURING OCT 3 MEETING BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN AMB. KIFLE AND STATE AND DEFENSE OFFICERS, FOLLOWING SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE FOR PARA 3 (A) OF REFTEL WAS AGREED TO AD REFERENDUM: "THE IEG AND THE USG HAVE MUTUALLY AGREED THAT THE US COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AT ASMARA, ETHIOPIA - KAGNEW STATION- WILL BE PHASED DOWN, AND THAT THE PHASING WILL BE COMPLETED BY 1ST JULY 1974. A GROUP OF ABOUT 100 US PERSONNEL WILL HOWEVER CARRY ON RESIDUAL COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER YEAR BEYOND THAT. PARA THE KAGNEW COMMUNICATIONS CENTER HAS BEEN OPERATED BY THE US ON THE BASIS OF AN AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BETWEEN THE IEG AND THE USG IN 1953 AND EXTENDING THROUGH 1978. PARA THE INITIATION OF THE PHASE-DOWN PROCESS HAS BEEN IN CONFIDENTIAL

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RESPONSE TO THE WISHES OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND ADVANCES IN

THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY."

2. ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY TRANSMITTED ON OCT 5 IEG AGREEMENT TO ABOVE TEXT WHICH BEING CLEARED WITHIN USG.ETHIOPIANS PREPARED RELEASE AT EARLIEST MUTUALLY AGREEABLE DATE.

3. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION WERE

IEG TO DECIDE TO INCLUDE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE IN ITS PRESS STATEMENT WHICH, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR INCLUSION IN ANY WASHINGTON RELEASE: "THE KAGNEW COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY WAS BEGUN BY THE ITALIANS WHEN ERITREA WAS UNDER ITALY'S ADMINISTRATION. FOLLOWING ITALIAN WITHDRAWAL, THE BRITISH CONTINUED TO OPERATE IT WHEN THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ERITREA'S ADMINISTRATION BETWEEN 1941-1951. THE AGREEMENT REFERRED TO ABOVE WAS CONCLUDED BETWEEN IEG AND USG FOLLOWING ERITREA'S REUNION WITH ETHIOPIA IN 1953."

4. ETHIOPIANS HAVE NO OBJECTION TO QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN PARA 3(B) REFTTEL, SECOND OF WHICH NOW REDUNDANT IN VIEW REVISED LANGUAGE ABOVE. RUSH

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Message Attributes

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